



NORTH CAROLINA  
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

---

FOUNDATION

**Media Contact:**

Marcie Gordon, Director of Communications  
North Carolina Museum of History  
919-280-1888, [marcie.gordon@ncdcr.gov](mailto:marcie.gordon@ncdcr.gov)

## **North Carolina Museum of History Foundation Receives \$2.5 Million Gift from High Point Philanthropist**

December 2, 2021 (RALEIGH, N.C.) — The North Carolina Museum of History Foundation is pleased to announce that Dr. David R. Hayworth, High Point philanthropist and retired furniture executive, has generously gifted the North Carolina Museum of History Foundation the largest single gift for the Museum's renovation and expansion campaign. The funds from the David R. Hayworth Foundation will be used to create the *Dr. David R. Hayworth Children's Discovery Gallery* in the new and expanded Museum facility, currently in its planning stages. The goal is for this gallery to provide new and exciting learning experiences for all who will enter, especially the thousands of students who travel each year from across the state to visit and learn in the Museum. The *Dr. David R. Hayworth Children's Discovery Gallery* will be a space designated to hands-on learning and educational opportunities for the children of North Carolina and beyond.

Foundation Board Chairman Vic Bell and his fellow volunteer board members celebrate the generosity of Dr. Hayworth's gift and the opportunity it will offer visitors for years to come. Bell stated that the receipt of a gift of this magnitude so early in the Museum's campaign will set a high bar for others to follow, allowing the Museum to realize plans that have long been in the works. Dr. Hayworth has stepped forward in such a significant and meaningful way to provide the Foundation with inspiration for years to come. His unyielding dedication to the education of our youth, the preservation of our state's history, and the deep reach of his philanthropic endeavors are a tremendous gift to North Carolina. The Museum is incredibly grateful not only for his belief in what we do for our community but for his leadership, friendship, and dedication to the Museum's mission. For his generosity and service to the Museum's Foundation, the Board of Directors are honored to name him as one of their 2022 Foundation Philanthropists of the Year, an honor that has been held by such similarly philanthropic North Carolinians.

The Children's Discovery Gallery is a key feature of the new North Carolina Museum of History exhibition gallery program. As an educational institution, the Museum believes that the time to inspire a lifelong passion for history is in childhood, when wonder, curiosity, and imagination burn bright in the minds of young people. The gallery will comprise four primary areas focusing on school-age children, preschoolers, a space for live learning, and the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association exhibition.

The largest area of the gallery will be dedicated to school-age learning and will be a highly engaging, interactive area where children who visit with their families or schools will examine objects, images, maps, documents, and other replicas of the primary sources historians use. For smaller preschool children, developmentally appropriate activities will be offered in a playful environment that will foster the imagination. Historically themed role play, historical songs for singalongs, early reading activities, and more will be highlighted in the *Dr. David R. Hayworth Children's Discovery Gallery*.

Additionally, a centrally located gathering space will offer special presentations, demonstrations, and performances for families with children. This live learning space will allow the Museum to tell a dramatic, tactile story of the people and places that have shaped the Tar Heel State. Finally, the updated Tar Heel Junior Historian Association (THJHA) exhibition will celebrate the hard work and dedication of the thousands of students across the state who participate in the THJHA program. The exhibition will link hands-on activities to real-world analytical thinking and other skills, enhance student efforts to teach a broad audience about local and state history, showcase junior historians' winning North Carolina history projects, and more while raising awareness of the program.

Dr. Hayworth is well known throughout the state and in his local community of High Point for his leadership and generosity in many areas of youth and education. This previous trustee of the High Point University (HPU) Board personally, and through his many family foundations, has been a major benefactor at HPU. His footprints and influence can be seen there in buildings across the campus. It could easily be reflected that, in the school's history, Dr. Hayworth is one of the university's largest benefactors.

For a lifetime of generosity and leadership that has positively impacted the state of North Carolina, Dr. Hayworth was awarded the state's highest recognition for service, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Dr. Hayworth has always attributed his commitment to philanthropy to his mother's unwavering example of compassion and generosity. As he once stated, "My mother was a remarkable woman who took over and successfully ran our family company when my father died months before I was born," shared Dr. Hayworth. "She was a person of great empathy and compassion for those who struggled. She taught me that sharing one's blessings is indeed the highest calling, and I have tried to make that a hallmark of my life."

"As you can readily see," says Ken Howard, Museum Director, "Dr. Hayworth has created a legacy that is steeped in promoting the welfare and education of children and will now encompass children from all across the state through his largesse with our Foundation. We are excited to utilize David's wonderful gift to continue his mission for children and youth. The blessings that will flow from his generosity for the youth of our state will live on for many generations of North Carolinians to come. We thank David on behalf of everyone at the Museum and for the children of North Carolina, present and future, who will be the beneficiaries of his kindness and commitment to their wellbeing."

---

### **About the NC Museum of History Foundation**

The North Carolina Museum of History Foundation was established in 2004 to raise funds through private-sector contributions that would empower the Museum of History and the Division of State History Museums to lead the state in preserving and interpreting the history and culture of the Tar Heel State.

The Foundation collects and distributes funds for exhibitions, educational programming, artifact acquisition, and object conservation. The Foundation also supports needed capital improvements and directs funds toward building an endowment for future generations.

## **About the NC Museum of History**

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This Museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibitions and educational programs. Admission is free. In 2019, more than 465,000 people visited the Museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the Museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate Museum, call 919-814-7000 or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow the Museum on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or YouTube.

## **About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network**

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of Museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with Museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at [affiliations.si.edu](http://affiliations.si.edu).

## **About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette's Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit [DNCR.nc.gov](http://DNCR.nc.gov).

# # #